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## *CHRONICLES*

# 1 January–31 December 2007

**Kurt Siehr***

### 2 JANUARY 2007

**Art** worth approximately $1.3 million was **stolen** from a small private **Japanese museum** just a day after the institution was featured on a popular television show. *Art Newspaper*, February 2007, p. 26.

### 21 JANUARY 2007

**Peru** prepared a **Red List** of Cultural Goods in Danger (Lista Roja de Bienes Culturales en Peligro). Available at ⟨http://www.andina.com.pe⟩.

### 23 JANUARY 2007

**Return** of illegally exported artifacts by the **U.S. Department** of Homeland Security to the **Pakistan** government. *Art Newspaper*, March 2007, p. 5.

### 24 JANUARY 2007

Report of the **Spoliation Advisory Panel** in respect to **three drawings** now in the possession of the Courtauld Institute of Art to the House of Commons. The recommendation is that three drawings attributed to Carl Ruthart (1630–1703), Frans van Mieris the elder (1635–1681), and Giuseppe Bibiena (1696–1756) should be **returned** to the heirs of Dr. Arthur Feldmann, a Brno lawyer, whose collection was confiscated in 1939. London Stationary Office, 2007, HC 200.

### 24 JANUARY 2007

The **Tribunal** de grande instance **de Paris** ordered to remove a seizure to return **pre-Columbian art** to **Ecuador** because the 1970 UNESCO Convention does not apply directly. *Le Journal des Arts*, 30 March–12 April 2007, p. 27.

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## 25 JANUARY 2005

The German "Beratende Kommission für die Rückgabe NS-verfolgungsbedingt entzogener Kulturgüter" recommended **not to return** the **collection of posters** collected by Dr. Hans Sachs (1881–1974). The collection was confiscated in 1938. In 1961 Dr. Sachs received compensation of DM225,000 for the loss of his collection, which was discovered later to have survived in East Berlin. The son of Dr. Sachs applied for return of his father's collection now in the Berlin German Historical Museum. *Pressemitteilung der Bundesregierung*, 25 February 2007; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 25 January 2007, p. 33.

## 26 JANUARY 2007

Opening of the **exhibition** in the Royal Academy of London "From Russia: French and Russian Master Paintings 1870–1925 from Moscow and St. Petersburg." This exhibition was possible because the British "**immunity statute**" (Tribunals, Courts, and Enforcement Act 2007, Part 6, Sections 134 et seq.) were already in force and gave security of safe return to the Russian museums. Konstantin Akinsha and Grigorij Kozlov, "Fighting for their Rights." *ARTnews*, April 2008, p. 130.

## 29 JANUARY 2007

State Minister **Neumann** convened for the first time the panel on **provenance research** in the Chancellery of **Berlin** to discuss the problems and to promote research. Invited were members of the state finance ministries, cities, interested parties, Jewish organizations, and museums. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 13 January 2007, p. 38.

## JANUARY 2007

Out of the University **Library** of Erlangen, Germany, some 100 **old books**, worth €800,000 had been **stolen** during the last years by an employee of the library. Trial begins in January. Franz Josef Görtz, "Der Hausmeister war's," *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*, 19 November 2006, p. 70.

## JANUARY 2007

The **Israel Museum** in Jerusalem was asked to **return 400 paintings** owned by Jews who perished in the holocaust. *Haaretz* [English edition], 2 February 2007, p. 1.

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## JANUARY 2007

Francine Tissot published the "**catalog of the National Museum of Afghanistan**" that records approximately 1600 objects acquired by the institution between 1931 and 1985. *Art Newspaper*, February 2007, p. 26.

## JANUARY 2007

Exhibition of **Rubens' painting** "Tarquinius and Lucrezia" in the Moscow Pushkin Museum. The painting was **looted** in Potsdam, Germany, by Russian soldiers, folded, and finally acquired ***bona fide*** according to Russian law. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 24 January 2007, p. 36.

## JANUARY 2007

Carl-Friedrich **Wentzel** is planning to engage attorney-at-law David J. **Rowland** of New York to enforce his rights concerning art **objects taken by the Nazis** in 1944 because his grandfather was opposed to the Nazis. German lawyers are not efficient enough. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 19 January 2007, p. 35.

## 1 FEBRUARY 2007

The case ***The Islamic Republic of Iran v. Berend*** was decided by the High Court of Justice (Queen's Bench Division) **in favor of the defendant**. Mrs. Berend acquired under French law the Iranian artifacts *bona fide* under French law, either by transfer to her in France or by prescription within 30 years. (2007) EWHC 132 (Q.B.); Marc Weber, *Art Antiquity and Law*, 2007, Vol. 12, p. 103; Matthias Weller, *Kunstrechtsspiegel*, April 2007, p. 184.

## 1 FEBRUARY 2007

The Art Newspaper reveals that **five** paintings in the **National Maritime Museum** in London were **taken** by British forces from Nazi Germany in addition to the picture by Claus Bergen, Martin Bailey, *Art Newspaper*, February 2007, p. 10.

## 1 FEBRUARY 2007

**Ancient coins** were **seized** by the **Zürich police** because the City of **Gela, Sicily** asked for legal assistance in criminal matters. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 2 February 2007, p. 7.

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## 1-3 FEBRUARY 2007

A **symposium** was held in **Stuttgart, Germany**, on "Wann stirbt ein Kunstwerk?" (When does an artwork die?). Art dealers and conservation people discussed with philosophers, professors and insurance experts the problem **of artworks deteriorating very quickly**. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 16 February 2007, p. 26.

## 7 FEBRUARY 2007

**Swiss foundations** administering the art collection of **Dr. Rau** sold paintings to finance their lawsuit against **UNICEF** to which Dr. Rau donated his collection to be sold to assist children, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 20–21 January 2007, p. 17.

## 7 FEBRUARY 2007

Opening of the exhibition "Foreign Artists in Paris 1900–2005" in the newly inaugurated **National Art Centre in Tokyo**. The works exhibited are loan from the Centre Pompidou in Paris. *Art Newspaper*, November 2006, p. 30.

## 9 FEBRUARY 2007

Continuation of the trial in **Rome** against **Marion True**, the former antiquities curator of the Getty Museum: Niklas Maak, "Der Kunstjäger von Rom": *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 10 February 2007, p. Z1.

## 11 FEBRUARY 2007

The **Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre** succeeded in getting a legal injunction in London requiring the Natural History Museum in London to delay their **performing scientific tests** on **human remains** that are to be returned to Australia. *Art Newspaper*, March 2007, p. 22.

## 13 FEBRUARY 2007

In Boston the retired lawyer-turned-artist **Robert Mardirosian** was charged with illegal possession and attempted **sale of stolen goods**. The works include Cezanne's "Bouilloire et Fruits" and were taken from the home of collector Michael Bakwin. Martha Lufkin, *Art Newspaper* March 2007, p. 50; *art*, May 2007, p. 120.

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## 14 FEBRUARY 2007

Imperial souvenirs of the Prince **Youssoupoff** family are sold at auction in Paris by commissaire-priseur Olivier Coutau Bégarie. *Le Journal des Arts*, 2–15 February 2007, p. 23.

## 15 FEBRUARY 2007

**Columbia** passes the Ley 1130 de 2007 (Febrero 15) accepting the **Second Protocol** to the 1954 Hague Convention. *Derecho Colombiano*, 2007, Vol. 95, p. 456.

## 16 FEBRUARY 2007

The **Supreme Court of the Czech Republic** quashed a judgment of the Prague District Court and sent the case back to the court of origin to decide whether the **Cathedral of Prague**, the Veitsdom, is the property of the church or state property. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 26 February 2007, p. 6,

## 16 FEBRUARY 2007

The Federazione Italiana dei mercanti d'arte (Fima) had a convention in **Modena** where the new **Generale Giovanni Nistri**, nuovo Comandante del Comando per la Tutela del Patrimonio Artistico, gave a speech on the **art thefts** and asked the art dealer to be suspicious of art without provenance. *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, May 2007, p. 79.

## 16 FEBRUARY 2007

Courts in **The Hague** decided that the **Goudstikker** collection will **not be seized** by the attorney Roelof van Holthe tot Echten still unpaid for his very long efforts to get the collection back for the heir (Marei von Saher) of the collector Jacques Goudstikker. Instead of this, Ms. von Saher has to give a bank guarantee of approximately €8 million to Mr. Roelof. *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 17–18 February 2007, p. 14.

## 16 FEBRUARY 2007

Report of Stephanie Strom that **Glenn D. Lowry**, director of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA; New York) receives an **annual salary** a bonus and benefit totaling $1.28 million and an **additional $5.35 million** between 1995–2003 from a trust funded by three museum trustees and a nontrustee, the late Laurence Rockefeller. This was taken up by Charles Grassley, chairman if the Senate **Finance Commit-**

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**tee** and asked for detailed explanation. *ARTnewsletter*, 20 March 2007, Vol. XXXII No. 15, p. 3.

## 18 FEBRUARY 2007

The **Museum Rietberg in Zürich** reopened after a new building was added to the old and renovated Villa Wesendonck. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 16 February 2007, p. 37 and 19 February 2007, p. 41, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 10–11 March 2007, p. 17

## 19 FEBRUARY 2007

**Italy** passed the Legge n. 19 allowing the President of the State to ratify the **UNESCO Convention of 20 October 2005 on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**. *Gazzetta Ufficiale*, 5 March 2007, n. 53, *Supplemento Ordinario*, n. 57; *Il Giornale delle Leggi dell'Arte*, 2007, p. 10.

## 22 FEBRUARY 2007

A new **foundation** "St. Galler Stiftung für Kulturgüter" was established in St. Gallen, Switzerland. The foundation will **acquire cultural property**, preserve it, and make it accessible for the public. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 24–25 February 2007, p. 34.

## 22 FEBRUARY 2007

Lothar-Günther **Buchheim** (born 1918), the art collector and author ("Das Boot"), **died** in Bernried, Bavaria. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 24 February 2007, p. 37.

## 22 FEBRUARY 2007

The **Italian Embassy** in Denmark invited to a debate-meeting on the cultural heritage attacking the **Glyptotek in Copenhagen** for hiding stolen archaeological objects smuggled out of Italy. Information by Lise Torben to the Leiden Network of 2 March 2007.

## 22 FEBRUARY 2007

**Return** of the painting "Fiat Justitia" by Carl Spitzweg (1808–1885) to the heirs of Leo Bendel because it was taken during **Nazi period**. *Die Zeit*, 22 February 2007.

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## 23 FEBRUARY 2007

**Heinz Berggruen** (born 1914) **passed away** in Paris. He was buried in Berlin on 2 March 2007. Berggruen was an art dealer in Paris and donated his art collection of Picasso and Klee paintings to his hometown Berlin where it was exhibited in the Stüler-Bau in Berlin-Charlottenburg. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 26 February 2007, p. 35, and 3 March 2007, p. 35; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*, 4 March 2007, p. 23; *Die Zeit*, 1 March 2007, p. 50; *Le Journal des Arts*, 2–15 March 2007, p. 3.

## 26-27 FEBRUARY 2007

**Theft** of two **paintings by Pablo Picasso**, one of them "Maya à la poupèe," from the house of the granddaughter Diana Widmaier-Picasso in **Paris**. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 1 March 2007, p. 35.

## 27 FEBRUARY 2007

François **Pinault** was successful in the French Cour de cassation and his auction sale of a sculpture allegedly of **Pharaoh Sesostris III** because an expert held the sculpture for a fake and the buyer Pinault had a right to be informed of this expertise. *Recueil Dalloz* 2007, p. 1632; *Le Journal des Arts*, 11–24 May 2007, p. 25.

## 27 FEBRUARY 2007

The French **Cour de cassation** decided that the new harmonized rule on **70 years** of protection of **copyright** also includes the extension brought about by the war and conceded tom some of the Member States. *Le Journal des Arts*, 27 April–10 May 2007, p. 27.

## FEBRUARY 2007

**Abu Dhabi's** Tourism Development and Investment Company unveiled plans for an ambitious **cultural quarter** which, by 2012, should open with the world's largest **Guggenheim Museum** designed by Frank Gehry. *Art Newspaper*, March 2007, p. 32.

## FEBRUARY 2007

The attorney of Marei von Sahers, the heir of Jacques **Goudstikker**, announced that **five paintings** out of approximately 200 paintings restituted to Ms. von Saher will stay in the **Netherlands**. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 7 March 2007, p. 37.

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## FEBRUARY 2007

The **Spanish** Ministry of Culture issued a **Code of Conduct** (Buenas prácticas a discreción) for Spanish art museums and art institutions. *art*, March 2007, p. 126.

## FEBRUARY 2007

After six years of negotiations, the **Hammer Museum of Art** in Los Angeles freed itself from a series of restrictions imposed by its founder Armand Hammer (1898–1990). As a result of the new agreement, the museum is returning a portion of its collection to the **Armand Hammer Foundation** established by the late oil magnate. *ARTnews*, March 2007, p. 62.

## 1 MARCH 2007

The **Tate Gallery** in London bought from a private collector the watercolor "**The Blue Rigi**" by **William Turner**. The watercolor was sold last year to the collector and an export license was temporarily refused. Now the museum could by it because private donations and foundations contributed to the price of £5.8 million. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 3–4 March 2007, p. 26.

## 1 MARCH 2007

**Germany** passed a statute approving the **Convention of 20 October 2005 on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**. *Bundesgesetzblatt*, 2007, Vol. II, p. 234. It was ratified by Germany on 12 March 2007 and entered into force for Germany and other states on 12 June 2007.

## 1 MARCH 2007

**Majolica** belonging to the **Grassi Museum** in Leipzig was discovered in Dresden. They were missing since 1945, taken buy the Russians, **returned** by them in 1958, and since then held by the State Collections Dresden. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*,1 March 2007, p. 38.

## 1 MARCH 2007

The **Consiglio superiore** dei Beni culturali with Salvatore Settis as president was established in **Rome**. *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, April 2007, p. 8.

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## 1–2 MARCH 2007

Conference of the Geneva based **Centre du droit de l'art** held on the subject "Les Collection des musées: aspects juridiques et pratiques." *News of the Art-Law Centre, Geneva*, January 2007, No. 14.

## 3 MARCH 2007

**Franz Meyer** (born 1919 in Zürich) passed away in Zürich. Meyer was the director of the **Kunstmuseum Basel**. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 7 March 2007, p. 25.

## 3 MAY 2007

The city of **Wuppertal, Germany**, named a museum "Von der Heydt" and an art prize after the patron **Eduard von der Heydt**. Also the Rietberg Museum in Zürich got many of its artworks from this patron. He still is blamed of having been a Nazi. An **expertise** now deals with this matter and gives a somewhat different picture of an opportunistic man. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 4 May 2007, p. 37; Francesco Welti, *Der Baron, die Kunst und das Nazigold*, 2008.

## 6 MARCH 2007

An agreement was reached in **Abu Dhabi** between France and the United Arab Emirates for the creation of a **universal museum of the Louvre**. *Revue générale de droit international public*, 2007, Vol. 111, p. 681; *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 8 March 2007, p. 27; *Art Newspaper*, April 2007, p. 1; *Le Journal des Arts*, 16–29 March 2007, p. 1.

## 8 MARCH 2007

Opening of the **exhibition** "Views of Europe—German painting of the 19th century" in the **Brussels** Palais des Beaux-Arts. *Museums Journal* 2007, April–June 2007, pp. 6–8.

## 8–10 MARCH 2007

The newly inaugurated DIFC **Gulf Art Fair** opened in **Abu Dhabi**. *Art Newspaper*, March 2007, p. 28; *neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 10–11 March 2007, p. 27.

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## 9 MARCH 2007

The **Danish** National Committee for UNESCO and others invited to a conference on **"Trade in Stolen Cultural Heritage**: UNESCO's Cultural Conventions and the role of Denmark." National Museum in Copenhagen [press release]. In his opening speech the Danish Minister of Culture Brian Mikkelsen announced "Denmark will ratify the **Unidroit** Convention."

## 9–18 MARCH 2007

The European Fine Art Fair (**Tefaf**) opened and showed also Asiatic art. *Le Journal des Arts*, 2–15 March 2007, p. 14; *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 10–11 March 2007, p. 22. Also **Sotheby's** and **Christie's** take part as art dealers, not as auction houses. *Die Zeit*, 8 March 2007, p. 54; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 10 March 2007, p. 43; *International Herald Tribune*, 10–11 March 2007, p. 9; *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, April 2007, p. 76.

## 12 MARCH 2007

Opening of the **exhibition** "**Era of the Merovingians—Europe without Borders**" in the **Moscow** Pushkin Museum. The exhibition shows many objects taken by the Russians Army in 1945 as **booty** or displaced artworks as restitution in kind for German destruction of Russian art. The exhibition will be shown also in St. Petersburg from 19 June 2007. *Hamburger Abendblatt*, 14 March 2007, p. 3; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 14 March 2007, p. 33; *art*, March 2007, p. 93; *ARTnews*, May 2007, p. 88.

## 12 MARCH 2007

The **Supreme Court of Montana** decided the case of ***Seltzer v. Morton et al***. Steve Seltzer had given an **expert opinion** on a painting that he attributed to the work of his grandfather Olaf Seltzer, and this opinion was confirmed by a second expert. The owner of the watercolor, Mr. Steve Morton, wanted to sell the painting as a work of Charles Russell, worth 10 times more than a work by Seltzer. He sued the expert, Steve Seltzer, for recant his opinion. He failed. Then Steve Seltzer brought a lawsuit against Morton and his attorneys. He won his case, and he got $1.1 million compensatory damages and punitive damages of $100,000 against Morton and **$9.9 million** against the law firm of his attorney. *IFAR Journal*, 2007, Vol. 9, No. 2, p. 6–7 and 24.

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## 12 MARCH 2007

**Germany** ratified the **UNESCO Convention** of 20 October 2005 on the Protection and Promotion of **Cultural Diversity**. *Bundesgesetzblatt*, 2007, Vol. II, p. XXX.

## 13 MARCH 2007

The **OVG Bautzen** (Court of Administrative Appeal) decided that the referendum of the population of Dresden is valid and that the **Waldschlösschenbrücke** has to be built. *Neue Justiz* 2007, p. 252.

## 14 MARCH 2007

The **Dorotheum** in Vienna celebrated its 300 **anniversary**. It was founded on 14 March 1707. *Il Giornale dell' Arte*, January 2007, p. 58; *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 2–3 June 2007, p. 27; *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, April 2007, p. 85.

## 16 MARCH 2007

Justice Teare of the English **High Court of Justice**, Queen's Bench Division handed down his judgment in the case of ***Ofir Scheps v. Fine Art Logistics Limited.*** The defendant has to pay £351,000 for the loss of **Anish Kapoor's** work "Hole and Vessel II" stored with the defendant and, by mistake, placed in a skip and destroyed at a **waste** transfer station. (2007) EWHC 541 (Q.B.).

## 17 MARCH 2007

The **Afghanistan** National Museum exhibits 1400 treasures that were so long kept in trust in **Bubendorf, Switzerland**. *news, ch*, 16 March 2007; *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, May 2007, p. 67; *Art Newspaper*, April 2007, p. 6.

## 18 MARCH 2007

The **UNESCO Convention** of 20 October 2005 on the Protection and the Promotion of **Cultural Diversity** entered into force. *Bibliotheksdienst*, 2007, Vol. 41, p. 1249.

## 22 MARCH 2007

The **Tribunal de grande instance** de Paris decided that in a free society shocking **caricatures** of religious groups (Muslims) are allowed and do not violate the law against blasphemy. *Kunstrechtsspiegel*, March 2007, p. 110; *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 23 March 2007, p. 3.

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## 22 MARCH 2007

The **French Ministry** of Culture declared the drawing of Francisco **de Goya** (1746–1828) a "**Trésor national**" and Christie's of Paris retracted it from the next auction because no export license was given. *Le Journal des Arts*, 30 March–12 April 2007, p. 6.

## 23 MARCH 2007

Opening of an exhibition in the **Hamburg Kunsthalle** around the "**Black Square**" of Kasinir **Malevich** (1878–1935) and his influence on modern art. Finally also the "Cube" of **Gregor Schneider** could be shown after Venice and Berlin had refused to show it on the Piazza San Marco in 2005. *Hamburger Abendblatt, Kunsthalle*, 2007, p. 5; *Art Newspaper*, March 2007, p. 3; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 22 March 2007, p. 35, and 12 May 2007, p. 36.

## 23 MARCH 2007

Opening of an exhibition of the works of the ancient sculptor **Praxiteles** (4th century B.C.E.) in **Paris**, Musée du Louvre. The National Museum in **Athens** declined to lend to the Paris exhibition the "Ephebe of Marathon" because of the work's fragility. *Le Journal des Arts*, 30 March–12 April 2007, p. 9; *ARTnews*, March 2007, p. 106; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 4 May 2007, p. 39.

## 27 MARCH 2007

The Fourth Meeting of the Advisory Panel to the **Foundation for International Cultural Diplomacy** was held in London. *Minutes of the Meeting*, 27 March 2007.

## 29 MARCH 2007

The **English High Court of Justice**, Queen's Bench Division delivered judgment on two preliminary issues in the case ***Islamic Republic of Iran v. The Barakat Gallery***. The court decided that the plaintiff Iran **failed to** show that it is the owner of the stolen and smuggled antiquities. (2007) EWHC 705 (Q.B.); *Weller*, "*Iran v. Barakat*: Some Observations in the Application of Foreign Public Law by Domestic Courts from a Comparative Perspective." *Kunstrechtsspiegel*, April 2007, p. 172.

## 30 MARCH 2007

The first subscription of the **closed fonds** for the investment in **works of art** were given in **Italy**. Available at ⟨www.patrimoniosos.it⟩. Accessed 29 September 2007;

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Francesco Capriglione, "I fondi chiusi di beni d'arte," *Rivista di diritto civile*, 2007, Vol. 53, p. 371.

## MARCH 2007

Exhibition in the Berlin "Alte Nationalgalerie" the painting "Salomonische Weisheit" by Ludwig **Knaus** (1829–1910). The painting was **missing sine World War II**. *Museums Journal* 2007, April–June 2007, p. 22.

## MARCH 2007

Germany made restitution of **Meissen porcelain** to the heirs of a collector **expropriated** by the East German government. The art objects could be bought back by the state for the museums. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 25 May 2007, p. 33.

## MARCH 2007

The Norwegian collector **Martin Schøyen** initiated legal action in the High Court against **University College of London** to recover 654 incantation bowls. The bowls were lent to the College in 1996. In the meantime it was revealed that the bowls were looted in **Iraq**. *Art Newspaper*, April 2007, p. 6.

## MARCH 2007

**Sheikh Saud Al-Thani** of Qatar, placed under house arrest for allegedly misappropriating more than $400 million of State funds, was seen purchasing several works at the European Fine Art Fair **Tefaf**, *Art Newspaper*, April 2007, p. 3.

## MARCH 2007

The **hair of Pharaoh** Ramses II is back in **Egypt**. It was offered for sale last year. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 3 April 2007, p. 9.

## MARCH 2007

Many old buildings in **Moscow** were torn down to build new hotels and public buildings. It was called "**official vandalism**." *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 13 March 2007, p. 36.

## MARCH 2007

**Lawrence Small**, the head of the **Smithsonian Institution** in Washington, D.C., stepped down and left the institution. He is charged with spending too much as expenses. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 28 March 2007, p. 7.

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## MARCH 2007

The **thief** who stole several works of art stored in the **Hermitage** of St. Petersburg was convicted and sentenced. *ARTnews*, May 2007, p. 90; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 20 March 2007, p. 35.

## MARCH 2007

The **Pompidou Centre** of Paris is planning to have a branch in **Shanghai**, China. *Art Newspaper*, April 2007, p. 26.

## MARCH 2007

The Federal Republic of **Germany** subsidizes with approximately €2–3 million the **provenance research** of German museums. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 6 March 2007, p. 35.

## MARCH 2007

The **painting "Mars and Venus** in the Forge of Volcano" by Hendrick van **Balen** and Jan **Brueghel** the Elder returned to the Neue Palais in Potsdam after having been **missed since 1945**, discovered in London and returned to Germany at a very low price. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 15 March 2007, p. 35.

## MARCH 2007

The **Sevso treasure**, the most spectacular hoard of Roman silver ever discovered, may be **incomplete**. Documents seen by the *Art Newspaper* reveal that "187 silvergilt spoons, 37 silvergilt drinking cups, and 5 silver bowls" were available for sale with the 14 known pieces of Sevso silver in the 1980s. *Art Newspaper*, March 2007, pp. 1 and 4; April 2007, p. 6.

## MARCH 2007

The second **Biennale of Moscow** takes place in the Russian capital and attracts many Russian and foreign collectors. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 15 March 2007, p. 42.

## MARCH 2007

**Egypt** is expected to take legal action against the Saint Louis Museum of Art over the **mask of Ka-nefer-nefer** bought in 1998 and, according to Dr. Zahi Hawass **stolen** from a warehouse in Saqqara in the late 1980s. *Art Newspaper*, April 2007, p. 7.

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## MARCH 2007

Heirs of **Nathan Katz**, Jewish art dealer who died in 1949, filed a law suit in the **Netherlands** for **recovery of 227 art objects** held by public museums in the Netherlands, *International Herald Tribune*, 26 September 2007, p. 3.

## MARCH 2007

Exhibition in the **Antwerp** Musée royal des beaux-arts of **dismembered panels** of the fourteenth and fifteenth century. The panels were united for this exhibition after a long time and came from several museums inside and outside of Belgium. *Le Journal des Arts*, 13–26 April 2007, p. 9.

## 1 APRIL 2007

Opening of the exhibition "**Ereignis Weimar**" [The Weimar Phenomenon] celebrating 250 years after the birth of Duke Carl August (1757–1828) and 200 years after the death of Duchess Anna Amalia (1739–1807). *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 7 April 2007, p. 48.

## 3 APRIL 2007

A **librarian** of the John F. Kennedy Institute in **Berlin-Dahlem** was caught **stealing books** of the library and smuggling them home. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 13 September 2007, p. 12.

## 4 APRIL 2007

The **Netherlands** announced also in German newspapers the 4 April 2007 as the final closing date for **restitution applications** "Cultural objects and the Second World War." *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 29 July 2006, p. 17, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 29–30 July 2006, p. 5.

## 8 APRIL 2007

The American artist **Sol LeWitt** (1928–2008) passed away in New York. *Le Journal des Arts*, 27 April–10 May 2007, p. 5; *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 10 April 2007, p. 13; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 10 April 2007, p. 41; *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, May 2007, p. 12.

## 16-17 APRIL 2007

Annual Conference of the Hague Academic Coalition in The Hague on "**Culture and International Law**." Hague Academic Coalition [leaflet].

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## 18 APRIL 2007

Opening of the exhibition "Paul Mellon's Legacy: A Passion for British Art" in the **Yale Centre** for British Art in New Haven, Connecticut, celebrating the Anglophile **Paul Mellon** (1907–1999), his contribution to art and the creation of the Centre in 1978. *Art Newspaper*, April 2007, p. 42.

## 19 APRIL 2007

**Christie's** of New York at the auction of Old Masters also sold 45 paintings of the Jacques **Goudstikker collection**. *ARTnewsletter*, 1 May 2007, p. 1; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 31 March 2007, p. 48, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 24–25 March 2007, p. 27; *art*, May 2007, p. 117; *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, May 2007, p. 80, *Weekend Journal*, 30 March 30–1 April 2007, p. W8.

## 19-22 APRIL 2007

In Staraya Ladoga, St. Petersburg, Russia, the 2nd International meeting "**Security of Archaeological Heritage**," takes place. *Leiden Network*, 10 November 2006.

## 20 APRIL 2007

The **Metropolitan Museum** of Art opens its new **Greek** and **Roman galleries** completing the final phase of its 15-year refurbishment of its Mediterranean antiquities galleries. *Art Newspaper*, April 2007, p. 12.

## 20 APRIL 2007

The **Cleveland** Museum of Art and **Italy's** minister of culture met in Rome and discussed dozens of **illegally excavated** pieces of Italy's cultural patrimony now part of the museum's hoard. *Leiden Network*, 26 April 2007.

## 20 APRIL 2007

The **German** parliament (Bundestag mit Zustimmung des Bundesrates) approved the **1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property**. It was ratified on 30 November 2007 and entered into force on 29 February 2008. *Bundesgesetzblatt*, 2007, Vol. II, p. 626.

## 22-24 APRIL 2007

**Conference "Eine Debatte ohne Ende?** Raubkunst und Restitution im deutschsprachigen Raum" [Debate without End? Looted Art and Restitution in German

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Speaking Countries] was held in **Potsdam**, organized by the Moses Mendelssohn Centre. The papers of this conference have already been published by Julius H. Schoeps and Anna-Dorothea Ludewig (eds.), *Eine Debatte ohne Ende?*, Berlin, 2007.

## 23 APRIL 2007

An **Italian** court ruled that Italy has to give back to **Libya** the "**Venus of Cyrene**" taken by Italian forces in 1915. *ARTnews*, Summer 2007, p. 92.

## 24 APRIL 2007

The **ICOM Red Liste** of endangered **Afghan cultural property** was presented by ICOM to the French Syndicat national des antiquaires (**SNA**) to be respected in art trade, Great Britain and Switzerland in their websites warn collectors to buy specific items protected by the home country. *Le Journal des Arts*, 6 July–6 September 2007, p. 35.

## 28 APRIL 2007

**Lorenzo Ghiberti's** bronze doors from the Baptistery in Florence are starting their **U.S. tour** in the High Museum of Art in Atlanta. Afterwards the doors are shown in Chicago (Art Institute) and in New York (Metropolitan Museum of Art). *Art Newspaper*, November 2006, p. 12.

## 30 APRIL 2007

Once again Dr. Zahi Hawass claims back the bust of **Nefertiti** from the Berlin Egyptian Museum and the **Stone of Rosetta** from the British Museum. Available at ⟨www.net-trbune.de.⟩ Accessed 30 April 2007.

## 30 APRIL 2007

An Italian "**decreto assessorile**" [a local ordinance] of **Sicily** provides that it is forbidden to remove any cultural property of Sicily to **other parts of Italy** or to any foreign country. *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, May 2007, p. 1.

## APRIL 2007

**Wilfried Seipel**, the director general of the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna gets **Paul Frey** as a codirector responsible for finance. *ARTnews*, February 2007, p. 74.

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## APRIL 2007

The **Supreme Court of Delaware** dismissed the claim of the collector Krahmer and his wife against **Christie's** for having sold to them in 1986 an allegedly forged painting. The claim was lodged **too late**. *ARTnewsletter*, 15 May 2007, Vol. XXXII, p. 8.

## APRIL 2007

The Ministries of Finance and Culture of **Saxony** established a panel of experts doing **provenance research** into the history of art objects claimed by the house **Wettin**. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 9 May 2007, p. 41.

## APRIL 2007

The Bulgarian art historian **Martina Baleva** revealed that the famous painting "Massacre of Barak 1876," painted by Polish painter Antoni **Piotrowski** (1853–1924) in 1891 and being a symbol of Bulgarian history, is not an authentic picture of the massacre committed by the Ottoman army but a painting **artificially staged**. Ms. Baleva was threatened to be murdered and left Bulgaria. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 13 September 2007, p. 37.

## APRIL 2007

The **Hermitage** of St. Petersburg and the Palazzo Sant'Elia in **Palermo** opened the exhibition "The Hermitage of Tsar Nicolas I. Masterpieces acquired in Italy." *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, May 2007, p. 72.

## APRIL 2007

The Baroque **palace of Mannheim**, the castle of Electoral Prince Carl Theodore, was opened again after being almost completely destroyed during World War II. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 16 August 2007, p. 29; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 30 March 2007, p. 39.

## APRIL 2007

The UNESCO **Convention on Cultural Diversity** entered into force for Brazil, Greece, Norway, Panama and Uruguay. *Tractatenblad van het Koninkrijk der Nederlanden, Maandbericht*, April 2007, p. 28.

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## APRIL 2007

France classified the painting "Flight to Egypt" by Nicolas **Poussin** (1594–1665) as **national treasure** and is still looking for money to by the painting for approximately €10 million. *art*, May 2007, p. 116.

## APRIL 2007

The Israeli artist Menashe Kadishman discovered several **fakes** of his paintings in a **Tel Aviv** art gallery and asked the police for help. *Art Newspaper*, June 2007, p. 62.

## 1 MAY 2007

Entry into force for **New Zealand** of the **Unidroit Convention** of 1995 on Stolen and Illegally Exported Cultural Property, *Maandbericht van het Tratatenblad*, May 2007, p. 20.

## 1 MAY 2007

**Norway** ratified the **1970 UNESCO** Convention and it entered into force today. *Leiden Network*, 25 February 2007.

## 2 MAY 2007

Marei von Saher, the heir of Jacques **Goudstikker**, filed a law suit against the **Norton Simons** Art Foundation for the return of two **panels** of Lucas Cranach the Elder **looted** by Hermann Göring during World War II. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 5 May 2007, p. 47; *Art Newspaper*, June 2007, p. 24.

## 3 MAY 2007

The Constitutional Court of Saxony decided that the City of **Dresden** has to start building the **Waldschlösschen-Brücke** even if UNESCO is against it. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 4 May 2007, p. 4.

## 3–4 MAY 2007

**Librarians** in Germany discuss the **expropriation of books** and manuscripts between 1933 and 1945. The expropriation was organized by the "Reichstauschstelle." *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 3 May 2007, p. 33.

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## 4 MAY 2007

Continuation of the proceedings in **Rome** against Robert Hecht and **Marion True**. *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, May 2007, p. 14.

## 4 MAY 2007

The **American Bar Association** International Cultural Property Committee examined collecting **Chinese art** and antiquities and the hot trade with this works of art. The meeting was held at the Fairmont Hotel in Washington, D.C. *Leiden Network*, 13 April 2007.

## 5 MAY 2007

For the first time artworks of **Cambodia** are shown in the exhibition "Angkor—Divine Heritage of Cambodia" in the Martin-Gropius-Bau **in Berlin**. *Museums Journal*, April–June 2007, p. 67; *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, May 2007, p. 65.

## 7 MAY 2007

The attorney general of **Tennessee** Robert Cooper declined to approve the **sale** of the painting "Radiator Building at Night" by **Georgia O'Keeffe** (1887–1986). Fisk University wants to sell the painting and is supervised as a Tennessee charity. *Art Newspaper*, June 2007, p. 70.

## 8 MAY 2007

The Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen exhibits the Cycle "Silikat" by **Gerhard Richter** acquired recently for €3.2 million. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 3 May 2007, p. 35

## 9 MAY 2007

The exhibition of **Benin art** "Benin: Kings and Rituals" opened in **Vienna**. This exhibition will shown later in other European and American museums. *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, May 2007, p. 41; *Art Newspaper*, June 2007, p. 13; *khm im Bild*, January 2007, p. 3.

## 9 MAY 2007

Return of the painting "Summer Night on the Beach" by Edvard **Munch** (1863–1944), painted in 1912 and loaned temporarily to the Belvedere Museum in Vienna to the heirs of Alma Mahler-Werfel, the widow of **Gustav Mahler**. *ARTnews*, June 2006, p. 76; Summer 2007, p. 98.

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## 9 MAY 2007

The **French** prime minister signed the decree no. 2007-756 extending Article L 122-8 of the Code de la propriété intellectuelle to the **droit de suite**. *Gazette du Palais*, 2007, p. 1828; Frédéric Pollaud-Dulian, *Revue trimestrielle de droit commerciale*, 2007, p. 530.

## 10 MAY 2007

The French ***Cour de cassation*** refused to review the sentence of the Cour d'appel de Paris by which **Jacques Tajan** and Roland Dumas were charged with a bad administration of the estate of the sculptor **Alberto Giacometti**. *Le Journal des Arts*, 25 May–7 June 2007, p. 41; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 23 June 2007, p. 43.

## 11 MAY 2007

**Bones of 13 Aboriginals** were given back by the Natural History Museum in London to the **Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre**. *Art Newspaper*, June 2007, p. 18

## 12 MAY 2007

Opening of the exhibition in **Bamberg, Germany**, "Unter dem Sternenmantel" [Under the Coat of Stars] celebrating 1000 years of the diocese Bamberg, The **crowns of Henry and Kunigunde** are not lent for the exhibition because the crowns cannot be transported from Munich to Bamberg, also in Bavaria. This aroused concern in Bamberg. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 24 February 2007, p. 38.

## 15 MAY 2007

The **Holocaust archive** in Arolsen, Germany, is open for **research**. This was decided in Amsterdam by 11 states that hold the documents in Arolsen, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 17 May 2007, p. 8.

## 15 MAY 2007

In **Zürich** was found in a bank vault 15 paintings left by the Nazi art collector, **Bruno Lohse**, who died on 21 March 2007. *Le Journal des Arts*, 22 June–5 July 2007, p. 5.

## 15 MAY 2007

**Switzerland** signed a bilateral agreement with **Greece** on the return of cultural property necessary under the Federal Act on the International Transfer of Cultural Property. *News of the Art Law Centre in Geneva*, February 2008, No. 16, p. 2.

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## 18 MAY 2007

The United States of Appeals for the **Ninth Circuit** decided in the case *Orkin v. Taylor* that **Elizabeth Taylor** does not have to return the painting "Vue de l'Asile et de la Capelle de Saint-Rémy" by **Vincent van Gogh** to the heirs collector Margarethe **Mautner** because it is too late. The Court applied the California discovery rule and decided that the heirs could have discovered the painting in 1990. *Transcript of judgment*, 18 May 2007; *ARTnews*, Summer 2007, p. 62.

## 18 MAY 2007

A hoard of **treasure** was found in **wreck** off Cornwall. The explorers found 17 tons of **gold and silver coins** worth £250 million. The ship "Eldorado of the Seas" sank in bad weather near the Isles of Scilly in **1641**. *The Daily Telegraph*, 19 May 2007, p. 1. The **shares** of investment fund "Odyssey Marine Exploration" of Florida gained 80% in Wall Street. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 22 May 2007, p. 21; **Spain** is claiming to be the owner of the treasure. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 2–3 June 2007, p. 7.

## 18 MAY 2007

**Germany** passed the **Statute on the implementation of the UNESCO Convention pf 1970**. Article 1 of this statute implements the 1970 UNESCO Convention and the European Directive 93/7/EEC of 15 March 1993. Article 2 amends the German statute on the protection of national property (Gesetz zum Schutz deutschen Kulturgutes gegen Abwanderung) Article 3 changes the Trading Regulation (Gewerbeordnung), Article 4 implements the **1954 Hague Convention of Protection of Cultural Property in Times of War**, and Article 5 provides that the provisions implementing the 1970 UNESCO Convention enter into force when the Convention itself enters into force for Germany on 29 February 2008. *Bundesgesetzblatt*, 2007, Vol. I, p. 757.

## 21 MAY 2007

The **Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art** (Mass MoCA) sued the Swiss artist **Christoph Büchel** in a federal court in Springfield, Massachusetts, seeking a **court declaration** that it may publicly display the material and partial constructions that it says Büchel "abandoned." But Büchel says this would "show a distorted, modified work to the public," violating his rights under U.S. law to the **artistic integrity** of his work. *Art Newspaper*, July–August 2007, p. 3; *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 26 September 2007, p. 25.

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## 22 MAY 2007

Opening of the **exhibition of Russian contemporary art**. Several works could not be shown because the **Russian customs** declined an export license. The argued that the works might raise hostilities and that they might be obscene. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 22 May 2007, p. 40, and 23 May 2007, p. 36.

## 22 MAY 2007

By letter the Director of "**Europa Nostra"** proposed a **compromise** in the dispute with UNESCO concerning the Dresden "**Waldschlösschenbrücke**." The Federal Ministries withheld their letter withdrawing their support of the bridge, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 30 May 2007, p. 37.

## 22 MAY 2007

The **Metropolitan Museum of Art** in New York opened the exhibition "The Clark Brothers Collect: Impressionist and Early Modern Paintings" and showed the collection of Sterling and Stephen **Clark**, the heirs of the Singer fortune. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*, 10 June 2007, p. 65.

## 23 MAY 2007

**Return of artworks** to Helmuth Meissner illegally expropriated by the **DDR** and given to the "Kunst und Antiquitäten GmbH Mühlenbeck" to **be sold against West currency**. The artworks were still in Berlin museums that acquired some of them. *Press release of the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz*, 23 May 2007.

## 24 MAY 2007

Opening of the exhibition "**Learning from Moscow**" in the Städtische Galerie in **Dresden**. Part of the modern paintings could not been shown because an **export license** was refused. They might disturb the public. *ARTnews*, Summer 2007, p. 90.

## 25 MAY 2007

Opening of the exhibition "**Afghanistan**. I tesori ritrovati" in **Torino, Italy**. The treasure are lent from the National Museum of **Kabul**. *Gazzetta dell'Antiquariato*, April 2007, p. 10.

## 25 MAY 2007

The memorandum on the painting "Berliner Strassenszene" by **Ernst Ludwig Kirchner**, returned in 2006 to the heirs of **Alfred Hess**, was prepared by the historian

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Dr. Tatzkow and attorney-at-law Schnabel was published. It points out the painting was returned correctly and the return was justified. Available at ⟨www.nazi-looted-art.-de/kirchner-restitution⟩.

## 27 MAY 2007

A total of 165 **archaeological artifacts** collected by Moshe **Dayan** (1915–1981) of Israel were auctioned off at a small auction house in the United States by the collector Irving Bernstein. *Haaretz*, 27 May 2007.

## 28 MAY 2007

The German artist **Jörg Immerndorff** (1945–2007) passed away. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 29 May 2007, p. 39, and 14 July 2007, p. 40 (Werner Spies); *ARTnews*, Summer 2007, p. 100.

## 28 MAY 2007

**Fabrizio Lemme**, l'avvoacto dell'arte, donated 128 baroque paintings to the Palazzo Chigi in **Ariccia**. *Gazzetta Antiquaria*, 2007, no. II, p. 48.

## 29 MAY 2007

The **German Federal Constitutional Court** (Bundesverfassungsgericht) decided the a constitutional complaint (Verfassungsbeschwerde) against the decision of the Court of Appeals in Administrative Matters of Saxony in the case of the "**Waldschlösschenbrücke**" is without success. *Press release of the Bundesverfassunsgericht*, 29 May 2007; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 15 June 2007, p. 12.

## 30 MAY 2007

The **Amerus** (America, Europe, Russia) program of the **Weidenfeld Institute** of Strategic Studies together with the Dresden **Art Collections organized a meeting "Cultural Heritage and Identity**" in Dresden. The role of modern museums in a multicultural world was discussed. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 30 May 2007, p. 35.

## 30 MAY 2007

The **Swiss Federal Court** decided that the patron Varenne deceased could revoke a **donation** to a museum because some conditions have not been fulfilled by the art museum. However, in the case decided that the heirs cannot exercise this right. *Die Praxix* 2008, p. 104; *News of the Art-Law Centre in Geneva*, No. 15, September 2007, p. 2.

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## 31 MAY 2007

Conference "**Owning Art and Making It Work for You**: Current Issues for Advice," organized by the International Bar Association, is held in **Milan** and attended by collectors, artists and lawyers working for museums and auction houses. *Leaflet of the Conference.*

## 31 MAY 2007

The **Swiss Commission for the UNESCO** convened a conference in Berne on "Two Years of the Federal Act on International Transfer of Cultural Property." Swiss Commission [leaflet], 23 April 2007.

## MAY 2007

The European Museum Forum chose the Emigration Museum in Bremerhaven, Germany, as the **European museum 2007**. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 22 May 2007, p. 35.

## MAY 2007

Le Journal des Arts published a **classification of French museums** according to their presentation to the public, their dynamics and their efforts of restoration. *Le Journal des Arts*, 25 May–7 June 2007, Dossier.

## MAY 2007

The Spanish architect **Santiago Calatrava** brought a law suit against the city of **Bilbao** because of violation his **copyright** by adding a separate entrance to his footbridge "Zubizuri" [white bridge]. *art*, June 2007, p. 126.

## MAY 2007

A German **attorney** confessed of having **stolen** the painting "Friedenszeiten" of **Carl Spitzweg** (1808–1885) during the long night of museums in Mannheim. *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 4 May 2007, p. 12.

## MAY 2007

Sonia *Farsetti*, president of the Associazione Nazionale Case d'Asta raises concern with respect to the transformation of the EC **Directive on droit de suite**. *La Gazzetta delle Aste*, May 2007, p. 1.

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## MAY 2007

The former royal family of Saxony, the **Wettin** family, is claiming back several **paintings** exhibited in the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden. *art*, June 2007, p. 118.

## MAY 2007

The heirs of the **family Ingenheim** is bringing a law suit against **Poland** in the European Court of Justice for the return of artworks hidden in Görlitz during World War II and later kept by Poland. *art*, June 2007, p. 118.

## MAY 2007

The director of the Kulturhistorische Museum in **Görlitz**, Germany (border town to Poland), wanted to lend books and manuscripts from Poland. As these objects were **looted** during **World War II**, they would be seized by the police as German property as soon as they cross border. Hence there are no loans from Poland. *art*, June 2007, p. 122.

## MAY 2007

The **Egyptian government** made a formal request to borrow the **Rosetta Stone** from the British Museum. The letter was written by Dr. Zahi Hawass, head of the Supreme Council of Antiquities in Egypt. *Art Newspaper*, June 2007, p. 8.

## 1 JUNE 2007

In **Trier**, Germany, the exhibition "**Emperor Konstantin**" was opened and attracted thousands of people. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 2 June 2007, p. 21.

## 1 JUNE 2007

The **exhibition** "Die schönsten Franzosen kommen aus New York" (The Most Beautiful Frenchmen Come from New York), paintings of the **Museum of Modern Art**, New York, opened in Berlin and attracted until 7 October 2007 many visitors. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 19 May 2007, p. 33.

## 2 JUNE 2007

The **Royal Ontario Museum** in Toronto, designed by Daniel Libeskind, opened. *Art Newspaper*, June 2007, p. 20.

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## 5 JUNE 2007

At **Sotheby's** of Zürich the painting "Der Genfersee von Saint-Prex aus" by **Ferdinand Hodler** (1853–1918) sold for CHF10.9 million (approximately $10 million), the highest price ever paid for a Hodler painting. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 7 June 2007, p. 39.

## 5-6 JUNE 2007

The **UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee** for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation passes the **Draft Rules of Procedure** on Mediation and Conciliation in Accordance with Article 4, Paragraph 1, of the Statutes of the Intergovernmental Committee. *CTL-2007/CONF.211/COM. 14.3 and 14.2.*

## 8 JUNE 2007

In the new building of the **Pierpont Morgan** Library opened the exhibition **"Federico da Montefeltro and his Library."** Federico da Montefeltro lived from 1422–1482 and was Duke of Urbino, Italy. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 30 June 2007, p. 30.

## 8 JUNE 2007

The City of **Venice** and François *Pinault* signed a contract in Venice and agreed to establish a museum of modern art at the "**Punta della Dogana,"** the entrance of the Canale Grande in Venice. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 10 April 2007, p. 41; *Le Journal des Arts*, 22 June–5 July 2007, p. 3. Pinault will work with the Japanese architect Tadao Ando. *Le Journal des Arts*, 8–21 June 2007, p. 7.

## 8 JUNE 2007

Opening of the new building of the **Nelson-Atkins Museum** in Kansas City. *Art Newspaper*, June 2007, p. 21.

## 9 JUNE 2007

**Rudolf Arnheim** (* 1904 in Berlin) **passed away** in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Arnheim was an art critique and author of several books *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 11 June 2007, p. 7, and 14 July 2007, p. 27; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 12 June 2007, p. 40.

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## 10 JUNE 2007

The last sword of **Napoleon** was sold at auction in Paris and sold for **€4.81 million**. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 11 June 2007, p. 7.

## 10 JUNE 2007

The 52nd International Exhibition of Art at the **Biennale of Venice**, directed by the American director Robert Storr, opened until 21 November 2007. *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, April 2007, p. 27; May 2007, p. 27; *Art Newspaper*, June 2007, p. 42.

## 12 JUNE 2007

The **UNESCO Convention** of 20 October 2005 on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of **Cultural Expressions** entered into force in **Germany**. *Bundesgesetzblatt*, 2007, Vol. II, p. 1685.

## 12 JUNE 2007

Sale at auction of the painting "Nadja" by **Emil Nolde** (1867–1956) that was found in the attic of a building, stolen in 1986 from **G. Rathenau** and given back to him *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 16–17 May 2007, p. 13; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 2 June 2007, p. 29; *Frankfurter Rundschau*, 9 December 2006, p. 1, The painting was sold for €2.15 million. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*, 30 December 2007, p. 61.

## 12 JUNE 2007

The exhibition "Verboden te verzamelen" (Forbidden Collections) at the **Dutch National Museum of Antiquities** (Rijksmuseum van Oudheden) in Leiden devotes full attention to the ethical and museum related issues the museum faces nearly every day. Press release of Leiden 12 June 2007.

## 13 JUNE 2007

The art fair **"Art Basel"** opened and lasted until 17 June 2007. *Le Journal des Arts*, 22 June–5 July 2007, p. 26; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 12 June 2007, p. K 1, and 16 June 2007, p. 49; *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 9–10 June 2007, p. 49.

## 13 JUNE 2007

The German **Federal Constitutional Court** decided that the book "**Esra"** by **Maxim Biller** violates the rights of his former lover because she can be recognized in his novel. *Gewerblicher Rechtsschutz und Urheberrecht* 2007, p. 1058.

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## 13 JUNE 2007

A **marble sculpture** stolen 1991 in Crete and found in a Swiss private collection was **returned to Greece** and exhibited in the National Museum in Athens. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 15 June 2007, p. 37.

## 13 JUNE 2007

After the **Golden Mosque of Samara**, Iraq was damaged in 2006, and in 2007 the police took over the protection of the Shiite mosque. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 14 June 2007, p. 9; *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 14 June 2007, p. 1; *Art Newspaper* July–August 2007, p. 7.

## 14 JUNE 2007

A New York court was asked to enter a judgment in the case of a **Picasso drawing** that the buyer says was a **fake**. New York art dealer Chantal Park requested an award of at least $145,000 saying that the defendant "wilfully and knowingly" sold her a fake. *Art Newspaper*, July–August 2007, p. 42.

## 16 JUNE 2007

The exhibition "**documenta 12**" opened in Kassel, Germany, and lasted until 23 September 2007. The exhibition is curated by Roger M. Buergel and Ruth Noack. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 9 June 2007, p. D 3, and 16 June 2007, p. 39.

## 17 JUNE 2007

The fourth international event "**Sculpture Projects**," held every ten years in **Münster**, Westfalen, Germany, features the work of 36 artists located around the streets and squares of Münster. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 19 June 2007, p. 25; *Die Zeit*, 9 June 2007, p. 47; *Le Journal des Arts*, 8–21 June 2007, p. IX.

## 19 JUNE 2007

Opening of the **exhibition in the Hermitage of St. Petersburg "The Epoch of the Merowings—Europe without Borders**." The exhibition shows 700 pieces **"Beutekunst,"** according to Russia removed cultural property as "restitution in kind." Klaus-Peter Lehmann, President of the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation (*Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz*), gave an interview about looted art. *arsprototo* 2007, No. 2, p. 40–41; *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 17–18 March 2007, p. 25.

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## 22 JUNE 2007

The photographer **Bernd Becher** (1931–2007) passed away in Germany, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 25 June 2007, p. 31, and 28 June 2007, p. 36;

## 23 JUNE 2007

The UNESCO Committee on **World Heritage** met in Christchurch, New Zealand and approved **22 new sites** to belong the World Heritage. *Le Journal des Arts*, 6 July–6 September 2007, p. 47.

## 26 JUNE 2007

The **collector Schøyen** and the **University College London** issued a joint statement signalling an end the litigation that arose out of the unclear provenance of archaeological relics from **Iraq** on loan with the University College. 318 *Science*, 2007, Vol. 318, p. 558.

## 30 JUNE 2007

The "Salle des Glaces" of the **Versailles Palace** was restored and opened to the public again. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 30 June 2007, p. 46.

## JUNE 2007

The grave of **Herodes** was found in Israel at the fortress Herodion. *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, June 2007, p. 55.

## JUNE 2007

The **U.S. State Department** is funding a **new museum initiative** designed to advance U.S. foreign policy. The department's cultural diplomacy arm, the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, established a program in conjunction with the **American Association of Museums** (AAM), that will see U.S. museums collaborating with foreign institutions in "community-focused" partnerships. *Art Newspaper*, July–August 2007, p. 1.

## JUNE 2007

The **Norton Simon Art Foundation** and the heirs of Jacques **Goudstikker**, a Jewish art dealer from Amsterdam, have each filed complaints inn federal court in Los Angeles over the ownership of a sixteenth-century diptych by **Lucas Cranach** the Elder, on view in the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena. *ARTnews*, Summer 2007, p. 58.

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## JUNE 2007

A Swiss antique dealer **returned to Greece** a marble **torso** of a young man that had been stolen from Gortyn, Crete, 16 years ago. *Culture Without Context* 2007, Spring 2007, p. 8.

## JUNE 2007

The founding stone of a **Museum of the History of Polish Jews** was laid in Warsaw. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 28 June 2007, p. 42.

## JUNE 2007

**Rome** is planning a **Museum of Roman Civilization** in the city exhibiting some 33,000 objects up to now hidden away in several museums. *ARTnews*, Summer 2007, p. 94.

## JUNE 2007

**Greek** police arrested a man suspect of smuggling **antiques** out of the country. More than 1000 pieces were seized. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 4 July 2007, p. 7.

## JUNE 2007

**Return** of two paintings of **Martin Johann Schmidt** (1718–1801) (or Kremser Schmidt) to the heirs of the Viennese textile industrialist Richard Neumann, to Neumann's the Boston based grandson Thomas Selldorf. The paintings got lost during the Nazi terror. Selldorf is also claiming back a painting by the Dutch Old Master **Maarten van Heemskerk** (1498–1574) sold to the Kunsthistorische Museum under pressure in 1952. *ARTnews*, Summer 2007, p. 96.

## JUNE 2007

Marc Spiegler of Zürich published an article in which he anticipates the legal action concerning the darkened reputation of Amedeo **Modigliani** (1884–1920) and the mysterious death of his mistress Jeanne **Hébuterne** who committed suicide after Modigliani's death. *ARTnews*, Summer 2007, p. 82.

## JUNE 2007

Some of the **Qumram fragments** have been transferred to **Berlin** to be analyzed by the Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung in the rooms of the State Library Prussian Cultural Heritage. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 5 July 2007, p. 35.

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## JUNE 2007

Martin Bailey reveals in an article published in the *Art Newspaper* that in 1946 the **British government** secretly sold nearly **80 paintings** belonging to **Germany's leading museums** and on loan to the German **embassy in London**. *Art Newspaper*, June 2007, p. 10.

## JUNE 2007

**France** created a "**Ministère** de l'immigration, de l'intégration, de **l'identité nationale** et du developpement solidaire" with M. Brice Hortefeue of Neuilly-sur-Seine as the Minister. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 4 July 2007, p. 31.

## JUNE 2007

In **Russia** it is not excluded any more that the **Baldwin-Collection** may be given back to Germany. Mr. Baldwin gave the collection back to the German Embassy in Moscow as looted art during World War II. But Russia does not allow the transfer to Germany, the Kunstverein Bremen. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 14 June 2007, p. 44.

## 1 JULY 2007

For **Switzerland** entered into force the Hague Convention of 1 July 1985 on the Law Applicable to **Trusts** and on their Recognition. This Convention will have also an impact on **cultural life** in Switzerland, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 9–10 June 2007, p. 52.

## 3 JULY 2007

UNESCO announced in al letter basic actions concerning **cultural objects** being offered for **sale** over the **Internet**. *UNESCO: DG/4.6/CTL/CIH/MCO/184.*

## 3 JULY 2007

In Madrid at the **Prado** Museum opened the exhibition devoted to **Joachim Patinir** (1475/80–1524), the father of landscape painting. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 4 July 2007, p. 31.

## 5 JULY 2007

In **Hamburg** opened the Museum Ballinstadt on the history of European **emigration** to the United States between 1850 and 1939. During this time more than 5

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million people emigrated through the port of Hamburg. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 9 July 2007, p. 8.

## 5 JULY 2007

The Belgian collector **Baron Guy Ullens** sold with Sotheby's of London his 14 watercolors by J. M. William **Turner** (i.e., "Lake Lucerne from the Landing Place at Fluelen") to concentrate on Chinese art. *Art Newspaper*, March 2007, p. 50. Twelve of the fourteen Turners were sold. The highest price of **£3.6 million** was paid for a drawing of a lake. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 14–15 July 2007, p. 27.

## 5 JULY 2007

**Christie's** of London sold at auction the portrait of "Lorenzo II de Medici" by **Raphael** (1483–1520), for £16.5 million (approximately $33 million), whereas paintings by Mark **Rothko** (1903–1970) ("White Center") sold for $65 million, Andy **Warhol** (1928–1987) ("Green Car Crash") for $64 million, and Francis **Bacon** (1909–1992) ("Study from Innocent X") for $47 million in May 2007 in New York. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*, 23 December 2007, p. 56; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 22 December 2007, p. 41. Cp. also Richard Feigen, "It's definitely a bubble, but when it will burst is anybody's guess," *Art Newspaper*, July–August 2007, p. 28.

## 6 JULY 2007

The **Scythes** and their art (archaeological finds in Russia) are shown in **Berlin's** Martin-Gropius-Bau. There are several loans from Russian, Ukrainian and Hungarian museums. *Museums Journal*, July–September 2007, p. 56; *art*, July 2007, p. 99.

## 7 JULY 2007

The **Memorandum of Understanding** between the Government of the **United States of America** and the Government of the Republic of **Cyprus** concerning the Imposition of Import restrictions on Pre-Classical and Classical Archaeological Objects and Byzantine Period Ecclesiastical and Ritual Ethnological Material was extended. *International Journal of Cultural Property*, 2007, Vol. 14, p. 441.

## 12-13 JULY 2007

**Conference in Pecz**, Hungary, organized by the **Institute of Art and Law**, Leicester on Art Trade and the prevention of illegal trade in art objects. *Kunstrechtsspiegel* April 2007, p. 224.

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## 13-14 JULY 2007

The first "**Salzburg World Fine Art Fair**" took place in Salzburg, Austria. *Die Welt*, 4 August 2007, p. 27.

## 17 JULY 2007

The **Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz** (Foundation of the Cultural Heritage of Prussia) returned to the heirs of Fritz **Haussmann** the painting "Der Zug des Silen" by Giuseppe Maris Crespi (1665–1747), Fritz Haussmann lost the painting because of persecution by the Nazis. Foundation of the Cultural Heritage of Prussia [press release], 17 July 2007.

## 17 JULY 2007

Ratification of the **Unidroit Convention of 1995** by **Greece**. The Convention will enter into force on 1 January 2008. *News of the Art-Law Centre of Geneva*, September 2007, No. 15, p. 2.

## 27-28 JULY 2007

With the auction house for autographs Stargardt, Berlin the first version of Theodor **Fontane**'s (1819–1898) well-known **poem** "**Herr von Ribbeck** auf Ribbeck im Havelland" (it continues: "... ein Birnbaum in seinem Garten stand") was sold for €130,000. *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 28–29 July 2007, p. 20.

## 31 JULY 2007

A small sculpture "Herkules und Omphale" by **Balthasar Permoser** (1651–1732) was given back to the Kunstgewerbemuseum in Berlin by an American collector. The artwork was **stolen** in the turmoil of World War II and surfaced recently. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 1 August 2007, p. 34.

## 31 JULY 2007

The German Bundesamt für zentrale Dienst und offene Vermögensfragen published a web site on the **art objects** of unknown provenance, possibly holocaust art. Available at ⟨www.badv.bund.de⟩.

## JULY 2007

The construction contract for the building of the **National Museum of Contemporary Art in Athens** was signed by the Chairman of the Council of Administra-

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tion of the Construction Company. The building is expected to be ready in two years. *Ta Nea tis Texnis*, October 1997, p. 25.

## JULY 2007

The oldest **manufacturer of pianos**, the firm **Ibach** in Schwelm, near Wuppertal, Germany, **closed** and leaves behind the remaining European manufacturers Schimmel Steinway, Bechstein, and Blüthner. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 18 December 2007, p. 40.

## JULY 2007

The **construction contract** for the building of the Greek **National Museum of Contemporary Art** was signed in **Athens** by the Chairman of the Council of Administration of the Museum and the Chairman of the Council of Administration of the Construction Company. The building is expected to be ready in two years. *Ta Nea tis Texnis*, October 2007, p. 25.

## JULY 2007

Two sidepieces of an altar by **Lucas Cranach the Elder**, stolen in 1980 in East Germany (Kreuzkirche of the village of Klieken) have been **discovered** in Bamberg, West Germany. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 1 August 2007, p. 31.

## JULY 2007

The family of **Richard Wagner** donated to Adolf Hitler some **scores** of his music. They are still **missing**. They may be in Russia or Italy. Nobody knows. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 28 July 2007, p. Z1.

## JULY 2007

The **Swedish "Moderna Museet**" gives back to the heirs of Otto Nathan Deutsch the painting "Blumengarten" by **Emil Nolde** (1867–1956) because it was taken by the Nazis and Sweden promised to give back such objects. *Kunstrechtsspiegel*, April 2007, p. 223.

## 1 AUGUST 2007

The **Getty Museum** agreed in a contract with **Italy** to transfer 40 pieces of art to Italy, including the Aphrodite di Morgantina. This piece of art will, however, return to Italy in 2010. Until 2010 it will be exhibited in Malibu. Press release of the *Corriere della Sera*, 2 August 2007; *Die Welt*, 4 August 2007, p. 26; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 3 August 2007, p. 40; *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 3 August 2007, p. 13.

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## 2 AUGUST 2007

In a radio interview with Mr. Ralf-Bernhard Wartke, deputy-director of the Museum of the Middle East in Berlin on the **Sphinx of Boğazköy, Turkey** asked for its return. **Turkey** also suspended the permission for excavations by Germany in Turkey. The sphinx (**found in 1917**) was apparently meant as a compensation for the restoration of another sphinx, now in bad condition, in the Archaeological Museum Istanbul. The suspension of the permission to excavate was lifted. Press release of the Federal Republic of Germany, 2 August 2007.

## 23 AUGUST 2007

**Sotheby's** reported to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission **outstanding guarantees** of $378.1 million for property to be offered "primarily in the second half of 2007" with a collective midestimate value of $400.2 million. *ARTnews*, November 2007, p. 132.

## 25 AUGUST 2007

The **glass windows** of the **Cathedral of Cologne**, designed by **Gerhard Richter**, have been shown the first time to the public. **Cardinal Meisner** of Cologne criticized the windows in his sermon and complained that art should be Christian and any deviation from it leads to ritualism. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 25 August 2007, p. Z1, 27 August 2007, p. 35, and 18 September 2007, p. 35.

## 28 AUGUST 2007

At the 34th session of the **UNESCO** General Conference it was recommended that Berlin and Turkey solve the issue of the **Sphinx of Boğazköy** (see 2 August) by mutual understanding and negotiations. *Report on the 2006–2007: Activities of the Intergovernmental Committee*, 34 C/REP/13, p. 3.

## 29 AUGUST 2007

The German **Federal Constitutional Court** decided that the movie "Contergan," telling the sad story of the German **thalidomide affair** of the 1960s, because it does not violate constitutional rights of the persons formerly involved in the affair. *Neue Juristische Wochenschrift*, 2007, p. 3197.

## AUGUST 2007

The National Gallery of Victoria in **Melbourne** had its allegedly **van Gogh** painting checked with the specialists of the van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam and were

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told that it is **not a van Gogh**. The Museum of Fine Arts in **Boston**, however, could confirm that their van Gogh is a real one, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 4–5 August 2007, p. 15; *Die Welt*, 4 August 2007, p. 23.

## AUGUST 2007

The French police **recovered two** paintings and a drawing by **Pablo Picasso** stolen in February from the home of the artist's granddaughter. *IFAR Journal*, 2007, Vol. 9, Nos. 3 & 4, p. 8–9; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 9 August 2007, p. 31.

## AUGUST 2007

A painting by Francesco Guardi (1712–1793) was located in the **Staatsgalerie Stuttgart** as being missed as looted art by the National Gallery in **Warsaw**. It must have been looted by the German armed forces during World War II. *Stuttgarter Zeitung*, 4 August 2007, p. 33.

## AUGUST 2007

A **wall painting** "Pétales et jardin de la nymphe Ancolie" (415.5 × 531 cm) by **Max Ernst** (1891–1976) was discovered in Zürich. In 1934 Ernst painted the wall of the Zürich "Corso-Bar," and the painting was painted over. Now it is detached from the wall, restored, and will be presented in a museum. Werner Spies, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*, 9 September 2007, p. 31.

## AUGUST 2007

The Swedish curator Pontus Hultén (1924–2006) is supposed to have copied famous **Brillo boxes** after the death of Andy **Warhol**, and the administrator of Warhol's estate is charged to have included the Stockholm types" into the register of works of Warhol. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 1 September 2007, p. 45.

## AUGUST 2007

Half a dozen paintings and some dozen drawings of **August Macke** (1887–1914) have been **found** in the **estate** of a relative of Macke. The heirs sold some of these pieces of art to the Westfälische Landesmuseum in Münster, and the rest will be sold in Essen. *Süddeusche Zeitung*, 1–2 September 2007, p. 15.

## AUGUST 2007

The **Cleveland Trust Tower** by Marcel Breuer should be torn down and a new smaller building should be erected on the site, This causes a big discussion whether

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modern architecture should be demolished or preserved. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 27 August 2007, p. 24.

## 1 SEPTEMBER 2007

Opening of an exhibition at the **McCullen Museum of Art** at Boston College presenting the result of a study of paintings allegedly painted by **Jackson Pollock** (1912–1956) and until recently discovered in a storage locker belonging to Herbert Matter, *ARTnews*, March 2007, p. 57; *International Herald Tribune*, 1–2 September 2007, p. 9.

## 1 SEPTEMBER 2007

**Christie's** raised the **extra charge** for low price objects to 25%. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 18 August 2007, p. 43.

## 2 SEPTEMBER 2007

Inauguration of the new **art museum of Qatar**. *The Art Newspaper*, May 2006, p. 10.

## 7 SEPTEMBER 2007

An exhibition of **Oskar Kokoschka's** (1886–1980) works created during his emigration should have opened in the Viennese **Albertina**. The exhibition failed because the estate of Oskar Kokoschka is **disputed** between his widow Olda (†2004) and his nephew Roman Kokoschka of Vienna. *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, June 2007, p. 11.

## 7 SEPTEMBER 2007

In the Konzerthaus am Gendarmenmarkt in Berlin the **50th anniversary** of the foundation of the **Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz** (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation) was celebrated. *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 8–9 September 2007, p. 13.

## 7 SEPTEMBER 2007

In **Münster**, Westfalia is shown the exhibition "**True Lies**. Original and Fake in Dialogue." *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 15 October 2007, p. 35.

## 7 SEPTEMBER 2007

The **Villa Romana** in Florence, housing since more than 100 years grantees of the study of Italian art and culture is **reopened** after renovation mainly supported by

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the Deutsche Bank. *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 7 September 2007, p. 15; *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 9 October 2007, p. 25.

## 8–9 SEPTEMBER 2007

In Germany and other countries the day of **cultural monuments** open to the public took place. However, there is a crises of the protection of monuments. *Die Zeit*, 6 September 2007, p. 56; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 16 August 2007, p. 29.

## 9 SEPTEMBER 2007

**Neubrandenburg, Germany**, revealed now that part of the municipal **Art Gallery** was discovered when excavations were necessary to build an underground parking lot. The objects were missing since 1945. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 18 August 2007, p. 31.

## 10 SEPTEMBER 2007

**Japan** ratified the **1954 Hague Convention** on the Protection of Cultural Property in Times of War. The Convention will enter into force on 10 December 2007. *Maandbericht, Tactatenblad*, November 2007, p. 2.

## 11 SEPTEMBER 2007

The Fondazione Giorgio Cini in **Venice** celebrates the "return" of Paolo **Veronese's** painting "**The Wedding of Cana**" removed from the refectory of San Giorgio by **Napoleon** in 1797. Returned is a copy of the painting the original of which is still to be seen and admired in the Louvre. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 13–14 October 2007, p. 31; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 13 September 2007, p. 39.

## 11–12 SEPTEMBER 2007

The **Cathedral Saint-Jean** of Perpignan, France was **sacked and plundered** by art thieves. France is going to protect churches and their treasures. *Le Monde*, 3 October 2007, p. 24.

## 13 SEPTEMBER 2007

The UN General Assembly approved the **Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**, a nonbinding treaty enshrining the principle of nondiscrimination and setting minimum human rights standards for indigenous peoples globally.

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*Bulletin of International Legal Developments*, 2007, No. 17, p. 201; *International Legal Materials*, 2007, Vol. 46, p. 1008.

## 13-15 SEPTEMBER 2007

An international conference "**Histoire de l'art du XIX$^{e}$ siècle** (1848–1914) Bilans et perspectives" took place in **Paris** to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the opening of the **Musée d'Orsay**, an old railway station. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 19 September 2007, p. N3.

## 14 SEPTEMBER 2007

Exposition of the **Batliner collection** under the name "Monet to Picasso" in the Albertina in **Vienna**. The collection is permanently deposited in the Albertina, but is held by the R. & H. Batliner Art Foundation, Liechtenstein. Herbert Batliner, now 79, is a Liechtenstein lawyer. *Art Newspaper*, June 2007, p. 1.

## 15 SEPTEMBER 2007

Opening of "**Kolumba**" the new Art Museum of the Archbishopric **Cologne**. The new building by Peter Zumthor houses the treasures of the old Diözesanmuseum. Shown are artworks of various epochs ands cultures. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 15–16 September 2007, p. 26, and 22–23 September 2007, p. 28; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 15 September 2007, p. 42.

## 18-19 SEPTEMBER 2007

Art auction of the **Russian collection** of the musicians Galina Wischnewskaja and Mstislaw **Rostropowitsch** in London; sold are mainly Russian artworks, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung*, 16 September 2007, p. 67; *Le Monde*, 27 September 2007, p. 25.

## 18-20 SEPTEMBER 2007

The 5th International Conference on the **Illicit Traffic** in Cultural Property Stolen in **Central and Eastern Europe** took place in Wieliczka, Poland. The conference urged greater European **cooperation** to prevent art theft. *Leiden Network*, 25 September 2007.

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## 19 SEPTEMBER 2007

The **Cité de l'architecture** & du patrimoine opened in the Palais de Chaillot in **Paris**. It exhibits art and architecture in the original or in copies. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 21 September 2007, p. 25.

## 21 SEPTEMBER 2007

The **Swiss** government recommended parliament to approve the Convention of 17 October 2003 on the Protection of the Immovable Cultural Heritage and the **Convention of 20 October 2005 on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions**: *Bundesblatt* 2007, pp. 7251 and 7297. It was ratified by Switzerland on 16 July 2008 and entered into force on 16 October 2008.

## 24 SEPTEMBER 2007

The Hannover State Museum **returned** the painting "Römische Campagna" by **Lovis Corinth** (1858–1925) to the heirs of the former owner **Curt Glaser**, former director of the Berliner Kunstbibliothek. The painting is supposed to have been sold under Nazi pressure. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 26 September 2007, p. 40; *Die Welt*, 25 September 2007, p. 27.

## 25 SEPTEMBER 2007

The art dealer **André Emmerich** (born 1924) of New York **passed away** in New York. In 1996 he sold his gallery to Sotheby's, who closed it two years later. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 29 September 2007, p. 43; *ARTnews*, November 2007, p. 100.

## 26 SEPTEMBER 2007

**Sale** at auction of 178 **pre-Columbian sculptures** in **Paris** with Claude Binoche of the Hotel Drouot. *International Herald Tribune*, 29–30 September 2007, p. 11.

## 29 SEPTEMBER 2007

The new **Art Museum Hans Arp** in a building designed by Richard Meier in Remagen-Rolandeck, Koblenz opened and showed the art of the French artist Hans Arp (1887–1966). *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 24 September 2007, p. 8; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 28 September 2007, p. 39, and 1 October 2007, p. 41.

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## 29-30 SEPTEMBER 2007

Many **visitors attended the exposition of the 4th Biennale of the Students of the Greek Schools of Fine Art**. For 24 hours people from all over the world visited the events organized mainly by **Toronto galleries** and museums that showed approximately 100 Greek works. The show was curated by the director of the Painting Department of the Athens School of Fine Arts. *Ta Nea tis Texnis*, October 2007, p. 1.

## 29 SEPTEMBER 2007

The **25th Biennale Internazionale dell'Antiquariato** in **Florence** opened in the Palazzo Corsini. It will last until 7 October 2007. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 29–30 September 2007, p. 26.

## 30 SEPTEMBER 2007

At the occasion of **mummies** discovered in Mannheim (Reiss-Engelhorn-Museum) a conference was held on "Mumien—Der Traum vom ewigen Leben" in **Mannheim**. *Handelsblatt*, 10 May 2007, p. 13; *Die Zeit*, 27 September 2007, p. 49.

## SEPTEMBER 2007

An agreement was finally reached between the government of **Peru** and the **Yale University** for the return of some 4000 artifacts excavated from **Machu Picchu** in 1912 and 1914–15 by the Yale archaeologist Hiram Bingham III (1875–1956). A new museum and research center in Cuzco will be funded through a traveling exhibition. *IFAR Journal*, 2007, Vol. 9, Nos. 3 & 4, p. 6; *Le Monde*, 15 September 2007, p. 24; *ARTnews*, November 2007, p. 94.

## SEPTEMBER 2007

The **Netherlands Museums Association**, representing 440 Dutch museums, begins to determine the **provenance** of pieces of art that might have been sold under Nazi pressure. *ARTnews*, Summer 2007, p. 88.

## SEPTEMBER 2007

**Lawrence Salander** and the Salander-O'Reilly Galleries in New York are threatened with at least **15 lawsuits** from creditors, collectors, art dealers and a former landlord, with individual suits claiming amounts ranging from $98,000 to more than $9 million. *ARTnews*, November 2007, p. 136.

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## SEPTEMBER 2007

The **Katz family** brought a lawsuit against the Dutch government claiming **return of 202 works** of art sold during Nazi occupation to Hans Posse and others for the Linz Museum of Adolf Hitler. *ARTnews*, November 2007, p. 122.

## SEPTEMBER 2007

**Gerhard Richter** designed a stained-glass window for the cathedral in **Cologne**. Cardinal Meissner of Cologne criticized the artwork and used terminology recalling **Nazi rhetoric** in his comments on the decline of religious art. *ARTnews*, November 2007, p. 114.

## 2 OCTOBER 2007

Getty sent to Italy the first **objects looted in Italy** and returned by agreement. *IFAR Journal*, 2007, Vol. 9, Nos. 3 & 4, p. 3–5.

## 4 OCTOBER 2007

The Scottish police in Glasgow found **Leonard's "Madonna with Yarnwinder,"** stolen from Drumlanrig Castle, Thornhill, Scotland, on 27 August 2003. *IFAR Journal*, 2007, Vol. 9, Nos. 3 and 4, p. 10. The painting was returned to Drumlanrig Castle. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 3–4 November 2007, p. 27; *Die Welt*, 6 October 2007, p. 27.

## 5 OCTOBER 2007

The Palais des Beaux-Arts in **Brussels** opened the exhibition "**The Grand Atelier**. Pathways of Art in Europe (5th–18th Century)" showing that international **art trade** and art collections circulated freely in earlier centuries. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 5 January 2008, p. 42.

## 5-7 OCTOBER 2007

The University of **Basel**, Seminar of Art History, invited to the workshop on "**Comparing Viewing** in the Sciences of the 19th Century." *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 24 October 2007, p. N5.

## 7 OCTOBER 2007

**"Day of Patrons"** of German museums thanking and inspiring for donations to public museums. *Die Zeit*, 4 October 2007, pp. 65 and 67.

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## 11-14 OCTOBER 2007

**Frieze Art Fair** at Regent's Park, London takes place and attracts many collectors of modern art. Frieze Fair flyer, 2007.

## 12 OCTOBER 2007

The President of the Italian Council signed the directive that formally adopts the "**Linee Guida"** as an instrument for the reduction of seismic damage to **cultural property**. *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, November 2007, p. 30.

## 13 OCTOBER 2007

Opening of the exhibition "**Gustav Courbet**" in Paris. Also shown is the painting "**L'Origine du monde**" painted in 1862, owned by baron Ferenc **Hatvany of Budapest** the heirs of whom may claim it back because it was confiscated by the Red Army in 1945. *Le Monde*, 27 September 2007, p. 18.

## 17 OCTOBER 2007

The French Loi n° 2007–1478 on the approval of the treaty of 6 March 2007 between the **French government** and the government of the **Arabian Emirates** on the Museum in **Abu Dhabi** was passed. *Journal Officiel de la République Française*, 18 October 2007, p. 17170.

## 18 OCTOBER 2007

The **Supreme Court of Belize** handed down the judgment in the case *Cal v. Attorney General* in which the claimants complain that their rights as **indigenous people** (Mayas) are not respected by the government. The Supreme Court Judge Abdulai Conteh recognized these rights and enjoined the defendants from violating these rights, especially their rights in land. *International Legal Materials*, 2007, Vol. 46, p. 1022.

## 19 OCTOBER 2007

A vandal colored the **Fontana di Trevi** in Rome with **red** color. *La Republica*, 20 October 2007, pp. 1 and 12.

## 24 OCTOBER 2007

The **Anna Amalia Library in Weimar**, partially destroyed by fire in 2004 was **reopened** after full restoration of the library building. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 20 October 2007, p. 42, and 24 October 2007, p. 48; *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*,

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*Internationale Ausgabe*, 24 October 2007, p. 26; *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 6–7 October 2007, p. 17; *Die Zeit*, 18 October 2007, p. 53.

## 30 OCTOBER 2007

The **Princeton University Art Museum** signed a contract in Rome on the transfer of title of eight art **objects allegedly looted in Italy** and retaining title to seven objects. *IFAR Journal*, 2007, Vol. 9, No. 3 and 4, p. 7.

## 31 OCTOBER 2007

The **Prado** in Madrid opened its **new exhibition halls** and modernized buildings designed by Rafael Moneo. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 31 October 2007, p. 25; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 31 October 2007, p. 43; *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, May 2007, p. 58; *Die Zeit*, 20 September 2007, p. 75.

## OCTOBER 2007

"**Dead City**," the painting of **Egon Schiele** was seized on 7 January 1998 and now returned to the Austrian Museum of Modern Art, is still the object of a trial in New York. New details about the **provenance** of this work are emerging, raising questions about its legitimate owners. William D. Cohan, *ARTnews*, April 2008, p. 114.

## OCTOBER 2007

After the Getty Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston had given back smuggled and **illegally exported Italian art objects**, also the **University of Princeton** is giving back from its Museum **eight antique objects**. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 30 October 2007, p. 38.

## OCTOBER 2007

Because of **open-cast mining** in East German areas, the church **Emmauskirche** of Heuersdorf was in danger of collapse. It was transferred by low-loader some 12 km to the village of Borna where it is going to serve as the village church. *Die Welt*, 15 August 2008, p. 8.

## OCTOBER 2007

The board of trustees of **Fisk University** in Nashville, Tennessee, moved to accept an offer of $30 million by the **Crystal Bridges** Museum of American Art (founded

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by the Wal-mart heiress Alice Walton) in Bentonville, Arkansas, for a 50% interest in its prized **Alfred Stieglitz** collection. *ARTnews*, November 2007, p. 134.

## 5 NOVEMBER 2007

The naked **mummy of Pharaoh Tutankhamun was shown to the public in Luxor, Egypt. This was criticized.** *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 5 November 2007, p. 5, and 8 November 2007, p. 25; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 6 November 2007, p. 35.

## 10 NOVEMBER 2007

**Forty clocks stolen** in 1983 from the L. A. Mayer Museum of Islamic Art in **Jerusalem** are back in the museum. *Haaretz*, 11 November 2007, p. 1.

## 12 NOVEMBER 2007

The **Swiss Federal Court** granted **legal assistance** in criminal matters to the **Republic of Italy** concerning illegally obtained cultural objects. The objects have to be taken to Italy for purposes of obtaining evidence and should be returned to Switzerland within a certain time to be fixed by the Swiss Ministry of Justice unless Italy applies for legal assistance for purposes of forfeiture, and such legal assistance is granted by Switzerland. *Kunst und Recht* 2008, p. 46.

## 13 NOVEMBER 2007

The working panel for **provenance research** convened for the last time in Berlin. They established a Central Office For Provenance Research in Berlin and **awarded €1 million for research**. German Federal Government [press release], 14 December 2007.

## 13 NOVEMBER 2007

Opening of an exhibition of **Ferdinand Hodler** (1853–1918) in the Musée d'Orsay in **Paris**. This Swiss painter is almost unknown outside of Switzerland. Therefore most of the works exhibited come from **Swiss collections**. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 17 January 2008, p. 25.

## 14 NOVEMBER 2007

Revision of the **German Guidelines for Nazi-Expropriated Art**. The guidelines (Handreichung) implement the Washington Conference Principles of 1998 of Nazi-

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expropriated art. Available at ⟨www. bundesregierung.de⟩ [press release], 14 November 2007.

## 14 NOVEMBER 2007

A **fire destroyed** the old guild house "Zunfthaus zur Zimmerleuten" in **Zürich**. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 16 November 2007, p. 38.

## 15 NOVEMBER 2007

Opening of the **Tutankhamun exhibition** at the Dome (now renamed the 02) in **London**. This will transform the UK exhibition scene. More than 2 million visitors are expected. *Art Newspaper*, April 2007, p. 7.

## 17 NOVEMBER 2007

Three organization representing **coin collectors and dealers** filed a lawsuit against the **State Department** demanding **greater disclosure** of how the government makes decisions on the import of ancient artifacts from abroad. *New York Times*, 17 November 2007.

## 20 NOVEMBER 2007

The **British Columbia Supreme Court** released its judgment in a long-running land claim dispute involving the British Columbia Provincial Government and six **Aboriginal communities** of the Tsilhqot'in Nation: *Tsilhqot'in Nation v. British Columbia*. The court could not grant rights in the entire territory of **440,000 hectares**. But the court gave some hints who a settlement outside of court could be reached. *Bulletin of Legal Development*, 2008, p. 18.

## 20 NOVEMBER 2007

The Italian Vice Premier and Minister of Culture Francesco Rutelli announced that on the Palatine in **Rome** an ancient **cave** was discovered with many ancient mosaics and paintings, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 24–25 November 2007, p. 25; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 22 November 2007, p. 37.

## 22 NOVEMBER 2007

A German court decided that the documentation of art objects in the **German list of art** (Gesamtverzeichnis) that need a government license for export is an act of government that may **challenged in court**. Oberlandesgericht Thüringen, *Deutsches Verwaltungsblatt*, 2008, p. 468.

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## 23 NOVEMBER 2007

The **Principality of Liechtenstein** passed a "Gesetz über die vorübergehende sachliche Immunität von Kulturgut (Kulturgut-Immunitäts-Gesetz; KGIG)" (Statute on the Transient Immunity of Cultural Objects, **Cultural Objects-Immunity Statute**). Before immunity is granted the application for immunity has to be published by Internet. If no appeal is lodged within 30 days after publication, immunity will be granted. *Liechtensteinisches Landesgesetzblatt*, 15 January 2008, No. 9.

## 24 NOVEMBER 2007

The old city of **Regensburg**, Bavaria, is part of the **World Cultural Heritage**. Not everyone is happy about this. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 22 November 2007, p. R3.

## 26-29 NOVEMBER 2007

The project "**Art Paris Abu Dhabi**" takes place in Abu Dhabi as the first French activity in Abu Dhabi according to the **Treaty** with the Emirates of 6 March 2007. *Le Journal des Arts*, 19 January–1 February 2007, p. 26.

## 27 NOVEMBER 2007

The former curator of antiquities **Marion True** for the J. Paul Getty Museum was **acquitted** in Greece of conspiring to acquire an ancient funerary wreath that Greek officials say was illegally removed from Greece approximately 15 years ago. *International Herald Tribune*, 30 November 2007, p. 1.

## 28 NOVEMBER 2007

IFAR Evening in New York with papers on the **authenticity** of **Jackson Pollock's** (1912–1956) works. The papers are reproduced in *IFAR Journal*, Vol. 10, 2008, No. 1, pp. 8 et seq.

## 28 NOVEMBER 2007

The British **Spoliation Advisory Panel** recommended that Christine Koenigs claims in respect of **three Rubens paintings** now in possession of the **Courtauld** Institute of Art in London should be rejected. *Report of the Spoliation Advisory Panel*, 28 November 2007.

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## 29 NOVEMBER 2007

The **Greek Minister of Culture** announced that he is going to submit to the Greek parliament the bill for legislation on "**Measures for the Protection of Cultural Goods**." *Hellenic Society for Law and Archaeology* [e-mail], 30 November 2007, p. 1.

## 30 NOVEMBER 2007

The German State of Bavaria acquired five volumes of the **Ottheinrich Bible** (ca. 1430), which would have been offered for sale in London on 4 December 2007. The **State Library of Bavaria** already holds the remaining three volumes that were separated from the bible during the 19th century. *Bavarian State Library* [press release], 30 November 2007; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 1 December 2007, p. 29; Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (ed.), *Die Ottheinrichbibel*, 2008, p. 9.

## 30 NOVEMBER 2008

The **1970 UNESCO Convention** was **ratified by Germany**. It was already ratified by 115 states but only very few (i.e., United States and Switzerland) implemented the Convention. Also Germany passed on 18 May 2007 a statute **implementing** the Convention. The statute and the Convention entered into force for Germany on 29 February 2008. *Bundesgesetzblatt*, 2008, Vol. II, p. 235.

## 30 NOVEMBER 2007

**Reopening** of the **Grassi Museum of Applied Art** (Museum für angewandte Kunst) in **Leipzig**. Founded in 1874 the Museum was closed since 1939 and destroyed during World War II. It is a great addition to German museums. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 30 November 2007, p. 37.

## NOVEMBER 2007

**Valuable photos** of Leni Riefenstahl, Elliott Erwitt, Helmut Newton and of other famous artists (worth approximately €3–4 million) have been **stolen in Cologne**. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 9 November 2007, p. 37.

## NOVEMBER 2007

The **Belgian art dealer** Bernard Descheemacker **returns** the altar "Kiss of Judas" from the French church in the city of **Vétheuil**. The altar was **stolen 30 years** ago. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 15 December 2007, p. 33.

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## NOVEMBER 2007

There will be a **Central Office for Provenance Research**, the **German** Minister for Culture, Bernd Neumann, announced. *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 23 November 2007, p. 13.

## NOVEMBER 2007

Irina Antonowa, director of the **Pushkin Museum** in Moscow announced that without **immunity** the paintings of the **Schtschukin collection** will not be lent to the United Kingdom. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 17 November 2007, p. 36. Immunity was finally granted applying an English statute allowing such immunity.

## NOVEMBER 2007

Christof Thoenes, Thomas Pöpper, and Frank Zöllner published a **book on Michelangelo** putting into question the **authenticity** of many works of Michelangelo. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 17 November 2007, p. 44; *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 15 November 2007, p. 11; *Die Zeit*, 19 December 2007, p. 65.

## NOVEMBER 2007

An **ancient synagogue** was discovered in Israel. Of interest is that there are ancient **mosaics depicting people** and animals. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 28 November 2007, p. 37.

## 1 DECEMBER 2007

The **Anna-Amalia-Library** in Weimar opened for **the public** after having been inaugurated on 24 October 2007. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 2 June 2007, p. 23.

## 1 DECEMBER 2007

In **New York City** the **New Museum of Contemporary Art** opened on Manhattan's Lower East Side. The building is designed by the female team of Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa and the Tokyo-based firm SANAA. *New York Review*, 17 January 2008, p. 20.

## 1 DECEMBER 2007

The collector and art dealer **Alfred Gunzenhauser** of Munich opened a museum in **Chemnitz**, Germany. *Freie Presse*, 30 November 2007, p. B1, and 1–2 December 20087, p. 5; *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 1 December 2007, p. 35.

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## 1 DECEMBER 2007

After years of restoration the **Grassi-Museum for Applied Art** opened in **Leipzig**. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 1–2 December 2007, p. 26.

## 4 DECEMBER 2007

The **Stiftung Preussische** Schlösser und Gärten **returned** to the son of the former owner of the family Bruno Beran a **portrait** by **Hugo von Habermann** (1849–1929). *Der Tagesspiegel*, 25 January 2008; *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 5 December 2007, p. 17.

## 5 DECEMBER 2007

Sale of the **Guennol Lioness** by Sotheby's New York for $51 million to an unknown buyer. The piece was held on trust by the Brooklyn Museum and sold by the children of the deceased settler. The piece was acquired after World War II by Alistair Martin, *IFAR Journal*, 2008, Vol. 10, No. 1, p. 2.

## 6 DECEMBER 2007

The painting "Plain with Windmill" by **Pieter Brueghel** the Elder was returned to the **State Gallery in Dresden**. The painting was **stolen in 1945** and acquired by the American Aaron Blekh. Dresden sued him in New York and won the case. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 25 January 2008, p. 37.

## 8 DECEMBER 2007

Two paintings have been **withdrawn** from the sale at auction by Hampel, Munich because the **Brueghel** painting is claimed to have been stolen in 1945 in Dresden, and the painting by **Bürkel** is stolen from the museum in Pirmasens. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, p. 45.

## 14 DECEMBER 2007

A new hearing is held in Rome in the trial of **Marion True**, the former curator of the Getty Museum. *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, November 2007, p. 8.

## 15 DECEMBER 2007

The Brazilian architect **Oscar Niemeyer** celebrated his **100th birthday** and is still working in his office. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 15 December 2007, p. 33.

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## 15 DECEMBER 2007

The translator of Homer's Ilias **Raoul Schrott** published an article that ancient **Troy** is not located in Western Turkey but in **Kilikia**. He later published in 2008 the book "**Homers Heimat**" explaining his theory, which was well received by archaeologists. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 15 December 2007, p. 35.

## 15-16 DECEMBER 2007

In Florence the 5th National Conference of Italian Sites of the **UNESCO** list of **World Heritage** takes place in memory of the 25th anniversary of Florence the **Centro Storico** being listed as World Heritage. ⟨http://www.commune.firenze.it/unesco/5conferenza.html⟩ (accessed 19 November 2008).

## 18 DECEMBER 2007

**David Rubenstein**, chief of the Carlyle Group, bought for $19 million a copy of the **Magna Charta Libertatum** of 1297 in New York, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 29 December 2007, p. 42.

## 18 DECEMBER 2007

The **Old National Gallery** in Berlin exhibits for the first time Adolf von **Menzel's "Die Bittschrift"** acquired with the help of the Kulturstiftung der Länder and private sponsors. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 18 December 2007, p. 35.

## 20 DECEMBER 2007

**Theft** of a Picasso painting (Portrait of Suzanne Bloch) and of a painting by the Brazilian painter **Candido Portinari** from the **Museu de Arte de São Paulo**. The paintings were recovered in January 2008. *Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Internationale Ausgabe*, 10 January 2008, p. 7.

## 21 DECEMBER 2007

Opening of the exhibition "Nostoi: Capolavori ritrovati" in Rome, Palazzo del Quirinale, Galleria di Alessandro VII. This exhibition shows the **68 objects looted Italy** and returned by the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and the Princeton University Art Museum. *Nostoi: Capolavori ritrovati, Rome 2007* [exhibition catalog], p. 14.

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## 21 DECEMBER 2007

The English Court of Appeal approved the High Court judgment in the case Government of the ***Islamic Republic of Iran v. Barakat Galleries Ltd.*** concerning the **Jiroft antiquities**. The Court held that the plaintiff has a right to recover the **illegally exported art objects**. The Iranian laws are not penal and, if they were public law, there is no general principle that courts of England will not entertain an action whose object is to enforce the public law of another state. (2007) England Wales Court of Appeal Civ. 1374.

## DECEMBER 2007

England passed the Tribunals, Courts, and Enforcement Act 2007 with the Part 6 on the "**Protection of Cultural Objects on Loan**," i.e., the immunity from seizure provisions. *Art Antiquity and Law*, 2008, Vol. XIII, p. 111.

## DECEMBER 2007

**Scotland asked England** for the return of the **chess figures of Lewis**, discovered 1831 by a shepherd in the sand dunes near Uig on the island Lewis of the Outer Hebrides. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 29 December 2007, p. 35.

## DECEMBER 2007

A precious throne was discovered in **Herculaneum**, but the site of Herculaneum is still fighting with the Camorra, the mafia of Naples. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, 3 June 2008, p. 40.

## DECEMBER 2007

The **Baghdad National Museum** opened after having been closed and sacked in April 2003. *Il Giornale dell'Arte*, November 2007, p. 76.

## DECEMBER 2007

The **Museum of Modern Art** and the **Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation** jointly asked a federal court in New York to declare them the rightful owners of Picasso's "Boy Leading a Horse" and "Le Moulin de la Galette." These paintings are challenged by **Julius Schoeps**, Germany, the heir of German Jews who were persecuted and expropriated by the Nazis. *Weekend Journal*, 29 February–1 March 2008, p. W11.

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